

In the Claims

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37. (Previously Presented) An improved actuator for actuating an aerosol valve for dispensing an aerosol product from an aerosol container, comprising:

a base having an axis of symmetry of said base;

a mounting for securing said base to the aerosol container;

a nozzle defining a nozzle channel extending between the aerosol valve and a terminal orifice;

said nozzle being flexibly mounted to said base for enabling said nozzle to pivot for

actuating the aerosol valve;

a unitary actuator button comprising a rigid sidewall supporting a rigid top actuating surface with an actuator button orifice defined in said sidewall of said actuator button;

said actuator button being rotatably mounted to said base to cover said nozzle;

said actuator button being rotatable about said axis of symmetry of said base between a locked rotational position and an unlocked rotational position;

said actuator button orifice of said actuator button being aligned with said terminal orifice of said nozzle when said actuator button is rotated into said unlocked rotational position;

said unitary actuator button being movable relative to said base for engaging and pivoting said nozzle button to actuate the aerosol valve for dispensing aerosol product from said terminal orifice and through said actuator button orifice defined in said sidewall of said actuator button when said actuator button is in said unlocked rotational position; and

said unitary actuator button being inhibited from pivoting said nozzle button when said actuator button is rotated into said locked rotational position.

38. (Previously Presented) An improved actuator for actuating an aerosol valve for dispensing an aerosol product from an aerosol container, comprising:
- a base having an axis of symmetry of said base;
- a mounting for securing said base to the aerosol container;

a nozzle defining a nozzle channel extending between the aerosol valve and a terminal orifice;

said nozzle being flexibly mounted to said base for enabling said nozzle to pivot for actuating the aerosol valve;

a unitary actuator button comprising a rigid sidewall supporting a rigid top actuating surface formed from a unitary substantially rigid material for enabling the entirety of said actuator button to move as a unit relative to said base;

said unitary actuator button including said rigid sidewall and said rigid top actuating surface forming a continuous surface with an actuator button orifice defined in said sidewall of said actuator button;

said actuator button being rotatably mounted to said base to cover said nozzle;

said actuator button being rotatable about said axis of symmetry of said base between a locked rotational position and an unlocked rotational position;

said actuator button orifice of said actuator button being aligned with said terminal orifice of said nozzle when said actuator button is rotated into said unlocked rotational position;

said unitary actuator button being movable relative to said base for engaging and pivoting said nozzle button to actuate the aerosol valve for dispensing aerosol product from said terminal orifice and through said actuator button orifice defined in said sidewall of said actuator button when said actuator button is in said unlocked rotational position;

said unitary actuator button being inhibited from pivoting said nozzle button when said actuator button is rotated into said locked rotational position; and

said rigid sidewall of said actuator button covering said terminal orifice of said nozzle when said actuator button is rotated into said locked rotational position.

39. (Previously Presented) An improved actuator for actuating an aerosol valve for dispensing an aerosol product from an aerosol container, comprising:

said base having an outer ring and an inner ring defined about an axis of symmetry of said base forming an annular void therebetween; and

a mounting for securing said base to the aerosol container;

a nozzle defining a nozzle channel extending between the aerosol valve and a terminal orifice;

said nozzle being flexibly mounted to said base for enabling said nozzle to pivot for actuating the aerosol valve;

a unitary actuator button comprising a rigid sidewall supporting a rigid top actuating surface with an actuator button orifice defined in said sidewall of said actuator button;

said actuator button being rotatably mounted to said base to cover said nozzle;

said actuator button being rotatable about said axis of symmetry of said base between a locked rotational position and an unlocked rotational position;

said actuator button orifice of said actuator button being aligned with said terminal orifice of said nozzle when said actuator button is rotated into said unlocked rotational position;

said unitary actuator button being movable within said annular void between said outer ring and said inner ring of said base for engaging and pivoting said nozzle button to actuate the aerosol valve for dispensing aerosol product from said terminal orifice and through said actuator button orifice defined in said sidewall of said actuator button when said actuator button is in said unlocked rotational position; and

said unitary actuator button being inhibited from pivoting said nozzle button when said actuator button is rotated into said locked rotational position.

40. (Previously Presented) An improved actuator for actuating an aerosol valve for dispensing an aerosol product from an aerosol container, comprising:

said base having an outer ring and an inner ring interconnected by a plurality of radial ribs

defined about an axis of symmetry of said base forming an annular void therebetween;

a mounting for securing said base to the aerosol container;

a nozzle defining a nozzle channel extending between the aerosol valve and a terminal orifice;

said nozzle being flexibly mounted to said base for enabling said nozzle to pivot for actuating the aerosol valve;

a unitary actuator button comprising a rigid sidewall supporting a rigid top actuating surface with an actuator button orifice defined in said sidewall of said actuator button;

said actuator button being rotatably mounted to said base to cover said nozzle;

a portion of said rigid sidewall of said unitary actuator button extending into said annular void between said outer ring and said inner ring of said base;
said actuator button being rotatable about said axis of symmetry of said base between a locked rotational position and an unlocked rotational position;
said actuator button orifice of said actuator button being aligned with said terminal orifice of said nozzle when said actuator button is rotated into said unlocked rotational position;
said unitary actuator button being movable within said annular void between said outer ring and said inner ring of said base for engaging and pivoting said nozzle button to actuate the aerosol valve for dispensing aerosol product from said terminal orifice and through said actuator button orifice defined in said sidewall of said actuator button when said actuator button is in said unlocked rotational position; and
said unitary actuator button being inhibited from pivoting said nozzle button when said actuator button is rotated into said locked rotational position.

41. (Currently Amended) An improved actuator for actuating an aerosol valve for dispensing an aerosol product from an aerosol container, comprising:
a base having an axis of symmetry of said base;
a bridge extending radially inwardly toward said axis of symmetry from a portion of said base;
a mounting for securing said base to the aerosol container;
a nozzle defining a nozzle channel extending between the aerosol valve and a

terminal orifice;

said nozzle being flexibly mounted to said base for enabling said nozzle to pivot for actuating the aerosol valve;

a unitary actuator button comprising a rigid sidewall supporting a rigid top actuating surface with a portion of said rigid sidewall being supported by said bridge;
said unitary actuator button being rotatable relative to said base for movement between a locked rotational position and an unlocked rotational position;
said unitary actuator button being tiltable about said bridge of said base for actuating the aerosol valve to dispense the aerosol product from the aerosol container through said terminal orifice when said actuator button is rotated into said unlocked rotational position; and
said unitary actuator button being inhibited from tilting about said bridge of said base when said actuator button is rotated into said locked rotational position.

42. (Currently Amended) An improved actuator for actuating an aerosol valve for dispensing an aerosol product from an aerosol container, comprising:
- a base having an axis of symmetry of said base;
- a bridge extending radially inwardly toward said axis of symmetry from a portion of said base;
- a mounting for securing said base to the aerosol container;
- a nozzle defining a nozzle channel extending between the aerosol valve and a terminal orifice;
- said nozzle being flexibly mounted to said base for enabling said nozzle to pivot for

actuating the aerosol valve;

a unitary actuator button comprising a rigid sidewall supporting a rigid top actuating surface being formed from a unitary substantially rigid material for enabling the entirety of said actuator button to move as a unit relative to said base;

a portion of said rigid sidewall being supported by said bridge;

said entirety of said unitary actuator button being rotatable relative to said base for movement between a locked rotational position and an unlocked rotational position;

said entirety of said unitary actuator button being tiltable about said bridge of said base upon depression of said top actuating surface for actuating the aerosol valve to dispense the aerosol product from the aerosol container through said terminal orifice when said actuator button is rotated into said unlocked rotational position;

~~said entirety of said unitary actuator button being tiltable relative to said base for actuating the aerosol valve for dispensing the aerosol product from the aerosol container when said actuator button is rotated into said unlocked rotational position; and~~

said entirety of said unitary actuator button being inhibited from tilting about said bridge of said base when said actuator button is rotated into said locked rotational position.

43. (Currently Amended) An improved actuator for actuating an aerosol valve for dispensing an aerosol product from an aerosol container, comprising:
a base having an axis of symmetry of said base;

said base having an outer ring and an inner ring defined about said axis of symmetry

of said base forming an annular void therebetween; and

a bridge located in a portion of said void;

a mounting for securing said base to the aerosol container;

a nozzle defining a nozzle channel extending between the aerosol valve and a terminal orifice;

~~said nozzle being flexibly mounted to said base for enabling said nozzle to pivot for actuating the aerosol valve;~~

a unitary actuator button comprising a rigid sidewall supporting a rigid top actuating surface with formed from a unitary substantially rigid material for enabling the entirety of said actuator button to move as a unit relative to said base;

a portion of said rigid sidewall of said unitary actuator button extending into said annular void for engaging with said bridge;

said entirety of said unitary actuator button being rotatable relative to said base for movement between a locked rotational position and an unlocked rotational position;

said entirety of said unitary actuator button being tiltable about said bridge of said base upon depression of said top actuating surface for actuating the aerosol valve to dispense the aerosol product from the aerosol container through said terminal orifice when said actuator button is rotated into said unlocked rotational position;

~~said entirety of said unitary actuator button being tiltable relative to said base for actuating the aerosol valve for dispensing the aerosol product from the aerosol container when~~

~~said actuator button is rotated into said unlocked rotational position; and~~
said entirety of said unitary actuator button being inhibited from tilting about said
bridge of said base when said actuator button is rotated into said locked
rotational position.